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KUNDA

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to get him to guess a little bit about what is going on around him.

"It will be critical for us as a defensive unit to stop the run and get them into a throwing situation. Penn State has a very good running game . . . excellent backs. If they aren't able to run against us, that'll be a plus. Penn State's passing game is okay, but I think the run is their strong game. We will have to play our responsibilities. We will not be able to make a mistake. Penn State is very good at exploiting mistakes."

Surprisingly, Cincinnati, even in a 35-9 loss, did a better job of handling the Penn State running game than any of the Lions' first five opponents. Penn State came into the game with its tailback rotation averaging better than 200 yards per game on the ground. The Bearcats cut that figure to 148 and held the Lions to an average of 3.4 yards on 43 rushing attempts.

If Gary Brown, one of the rotating tailbacks, thought that the Cincinnati defense was "real tough up front," wait until he gets a look at the Orangemen. Big and tough, as usual.

Syracuse is best, however, against the pass. The Orange defense has given up only an average of 148 yards a game in passing.

Sacca was a modest 11 of 33 last week. He was especially erratic in the second half.

Syracuse comes to Beaver Stadium with a 4-1 record, just like Penn State's, and a full head of steam left over from last year's 48-21 whipping it handed the Lions in the Carrier Dome. Besides, Syracuse has a 34-20 win over Rutgers, the team that upset Penn State three weeks ago 21-16.

"This is always a critical game for us," said Buskirk. "Mainly because of our records being similar and we have not really been getting respect from the polls even though we did beat Rutgers. If we do well against Penn State, people will have to stand up and take a look at us. I think we are being overlooked."

It's been said over the years that the route to the polls goes through Penn State. Surely, the winner of tomorrow's game will get a top 20 ranking.

Much has been made of Penn State dropping Syracuse in 1990. It's been a long series, one of the better ones in the East, but Joe Paterno, miffed that Syracuse was one of the teams that wasn't interested in an all-sports conference, made an offer that was easy for the Orangemen to refuse.

Penn State wanted six of the 10 games in the future at Beaver Stadium. Syracuse said no, so the series came to a halt.

"Just recently, there was an article in one of the local papers where our coach seemed to make a deal out it," said Buskirk. "He had some choice words. I think it [ending the series] will hurt both schools and football in general. They're taking away a good contest. The decision was based on economics, at least that's what it seemed to me. We're not concerned about that now . . . we just want to go down there and play a good football game."

SOCCER

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"We certainly didn't expect them to be that backed up," sad Maehrer, a senior from Salisbury. "It's exactly what we wanted to do, but we got unlucky and didn't stick one [goal] in."

Maehrer said the Mules are trying to soft focus the shutout streak. "We're trying to get ourselves prepared. We don't want to let anyone score, but someone's going to, eventually, and we're ready for it."

Muhlenberg's defensive unit of Ian Williams, Bert Mukkulainen, and Rob LaBranche was on the money yesterday.

"Mark and Ian Williams are definitely All-America candidates," Tipping said.

The offense was led by sophomore Mike Pfeiffer, a speedy forward who absolutely controlled the left sideline and corner for the Mules.

"He is a tremendous athlete," Tipping said of the Freedom product. "He's got unlimited potential with his speed."

Muhlenberg also got outstanding efforts from sophomores Tom Sabo and Jim Vogel, who set up most of the offensive flow.

The first period belonged to Muhlenberg and forced E-town into a tentative attack. Joe Fix, a freshman out of Salisbury, had Muhlenberg's first good opportunity, shooting just wide to the left near the period's midway point.

Williams fed the ball to Pfeiffer on the left a few minutes later on a short pattern in front of the goal. Varrato came out and opened up the net, but Mike Weis made a fine defensive play to save the goal.

With 20 minutes left in the half, Pfeiffer crossed the ball to Chris Bingman in front. Bingman, who was playing in just his third game back after a bout with tendonitis, headed the ball, but Varrato came out of nowhere to make the stop.

In the second half, Maehrer had to make an early save on a Mark Pratzner header. Muhlenberg countered with Fix sending the ball to Bingman. Varrato played on Fix, leaving the net open, but Bingman fired wide.

The two best scoring opportunities in the game both belonged to the Mules. With 21:30 left in regulation, Chuck Lang tackled the ball and Jim Vogel ran to the center of the goal area, beating Varrato, but shot just high over the crossbar.

Four minutes later, Bingman beat a Blue Jay defender on the right, cut to goal and beat Varrato, only to have the ball cleared away by the alert and seemingly ever-present Weis.

"We've had trouble all season scoring goals," said Tipping, who downplayed the fact that Muhlenberg played without leading scorer Gary Hind (ankle injury). E'town was missing offensive general Rob Martin, who may be out for the season.

"I think we were the better team and we should have won the game, but we have to score when we get chances like we did. I honestly went into this game believing our team was as good, or better, than Elizabethtown."

If the Mules can upset No. 8 Messiah on Saturday, the pollsters may find it difficult to disagree with Tipping.

SERIES

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views as its contemptuous bowels, chastises Southern California fans. "Dodger fans have a real on-off switch. It's boom or bust. Win or lose. Here people can't adjust to adversity."

True, the nation's second-largest city is accustomed to winners. The Lakers won consecutive NBA titles, and UCLA and Southern Cal are 2-3 in the college football ratings. Almost unnoticed due to Dodger frenzy are the undefeated Los Angeles Kings, now referred to as the Gretz-Kings, who are 4-0 after beating the Boston Bruins Wednesday night.

Prognosticators are already giving Oakland the Series edge, but then the oddsmakers sided with the Mets, too.

The Athletics swept Boston in four games and are rested and healthy. The Dodgers battled through seven games to beat the Mets and are tired and hurting. Pitcher Orel Hershiser made it through nine innings to shut out the Mets 6-0 Wednesday night, but it took an injection to get hamstring-lame Kirk Gibson back in games 6 and 7.

"I predict the Dodgers in six games," said Los Angeles fan Ron Polk. "Oakland is the most powerful team in baseball but the Dodgers have [Manager] Tommy Lasorda, he can create magic with a baseball team."

World Series fever turned to Dodgers blue early yesterday, however, when fans who waited hours in line at the stadium learned that tickets for the games, starting tomorrow at Los Angeles, were available only by telephone.

More than 100 people were in a line that stretched from the advance ticket office out to Stadium Way when a security officer arrived with the bad news about 8:15 a.m.

"You can tell the Dodgers they lost a lot of fans," said Brooks Davis, 25, of Redlands.

"The whole season we sit there and support 'em and then they do this to us," Joey Newton, who had been there since 2 a.m., added.

"We can stay home and watch the game on TV and root for our team and buy beer for a lot less and eat food for a lot less. But we want to come watch the Dodgers," Joe Cepeda of San Pedro said. "We got cheated here, man."

Newspaper ads yesterday gave baseball fans an opportunity to see the series in person, but it will cost. Prices ranged from $500 to $800 for prime seats, and down to $65 in the nose-bleed section, where your head might graze the blimp during the 7th-inning stretch.

At Los Angeles, it was unclear who won the war of words in the Dodgers camp.

On Oct. 7, the Los Angeles Times published an advertisement using an unflattering drawing submitted by Newsday of New York, reading: "The Dodgers are History."

The Times countered on Oct. 8 with an ad that read: "New York's about to get the Blues."

But come Game 7, it was the Los Angeles Daily News that got the exposure on national television with a front page "extra" that heralded the victors. It was hoisted repeatedly in front of TV cameras by several champagne-soaked Dodgers for all the world to see.

Cage clinic

Central Catholic is holding a free basketball clinic for 7th and 8th grade CYO boys from 2-3:30 p.m. Oct. 30 at Rockne Hall. A clinic for CYO coaches will follow.

ANGLE

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pus talk about. They want so bad to get even, to settle the score, to rub their noses in it."

Asked about the revenge angle earlier this week, Johnson quickly changed the subject.

"Some of this is blown out of proportion and I don't pay any attention to it," he replied. "It's not a concern."

Next question.

It's hard to shrug off what certainly will be a hostile atmosphere for the Hurricanes in South Bend. Especially when quarterback Steve Walsh, trying to adopt the "just another game" theory, says that "neither one of us [the current teams] were really involved too much with the '85 game when all the hatred began."

The feudin' and fussin' began when Miami left quarterback Vinny Testaverde in until the fourth quarter and kept throwing the ball with backup Geoff Torretta. The Hurricanes also blocked a punt and ran a reverse.

True, Miami didn't sit on the ball and simply run off-tackle. Oklahoma did that in an 82-42 dismemberment of Colorado eight years ago and scored two quick touchdowns anyway.

For openers, Notre Dame was a poorly prepared team in 1985 with nothing to play for. The Irish weren't going to a bowl game and nothing was going to save Faust's job. They arrived in Florida on Wednesday and spent several days taking in the sun in Fort Lauderdale.

And Miami blocked the punt while rushing only two players. Nobody blocked them.

Don't forget, either, that Notre Dame once led this series 12-1-1 (it's now 13-6-1), including such blowouts as 44-0, 48-10 and 40-15.

Miami brings a 36-game regular-season winning streak, fifth longest in NCAA history, to South Bend, which may be playing right into Notre Dame's hands. The Irish are experts at snapping streaks, and Miami also has won 15 straight overall and 20 straight regular-season road games.

— In 1946, a 0-0 tie ended Army's 25-game winning streak. That avenged losses of 59-0 and 48-0 the previous two years.

— In 1953, a 27-14 victory ended Georgia Tech's 31-game unbeaten streak.

— In 1957, a 7-0 victory ended Oklahoma's 47-game winning streak, the longest in college football history. Notre Dame also was the last team to beat Oklahoma before the streak.

— In 1971, a 24-11 Cotton Bowl triumph ended Texas' 30-game winning streak.

— In 1973, a 23-14 win ended Southern Cal's 23-game unbeaten streak. It was the pivotal game in Notre Dame's drive to the national championship.

If you throw in basketball, Notre Dame also ended UCLA's record 88-game winning streak with a 71-70 victory in 1974.

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The story was making the rounds before last week's Georgia Southern-Florida State game, apparently without foundation, that Georgia Southern coach Erk Russell told FSU's Bobby Bowden that if the Seminoles rolled it up on their Division I-AA opponent, Russell would show no mercy next month when the Eagles meet Division III Samford, coached by Bowden's son, Terry.

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The Dooley brothers won both of last week's head-to-head confrontations with the Browns. Vince Dooley and Georgia beat Watson Brown and Vanderbilt 41-22, Bill Dooley and Wake Forest beat Mack Brown and North Carolina 42-24.

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St. Peter's College of Jersey City, N.J., recently dropped football because it had only 34 players.

Trinity University of San Antonio, Texas, will visit the University of Rochester (N.Y.) on Saturday night with a 32-man squad.

Most of them play both ways, starting on one side of the ball and performing as backups on the other side.

Paul Willstrop starts at guard on offense and tackle on defense. Free safety Hugh Patterson is the backup quarterback. Gary Pikul starts at flanker on offense and cornerback on defense. Edward May, the other cornerback, is the backup at split end. Linebacker Lynn Westfall is a backup tackle on offense.

The 32 Tigers are 2-1 and, says Rochester coach Ray Tellier, "Their skilled people are excellent. They can all play. They just keep coming at you — good, tough Texas kids."

BAIT

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said. "I really never have sought any job in the front office."

At the end of the 1987 season, Cashen said Johnson would not be back as manager following 1988. But at the start of spring training, Cashen said Johnson might be back.

Cashen was unhappy that Johnson brought up his contract status in the press a year ago when the Mets were fighting the Cardinals for the NL East lead.

"We'll talk by the end of the week, but we won't do anything until after the World Series is over," Cashen said. "I don't know what will happen. We had agreed not to talk about it until after the season; we thought it would be counterproductive."

Johnson said he planned to go fishing for a few days before talking to Cashen.

Meanwhile, Cashen may be planning on his trade bait.

The emergence of Gregg Jefferies at third base has left the Mets with too many infielders without a job. Either Dave Magadan, Howard Johnson, Tim Teufel or Wally Backman will have to go — perhaps more than one.

The Mets platooned Len Dykstra and Mookie Wilson in center field, and neither like the situation.

Catcher Gary Carter is a perennial All-Star and a future Hall of Famer. But he is also 34 and coming off his worst season. Carter hit .242 with 11 homers and 46 runs batted in. He also had lots of problems throwing out base stealers.

Rumors have swirled all season that the Mets are working on a deal that would bring San Diego catcher Benito Santiago to New York.

Before the season started, the Mets were picked to win it all if they did not beat themselves. In the final analysis, they might have done just that.

Before the playoffs started, Darryl Strawberry said he would like to play for the Dodgers after his contract with the Mets expires in two years. Strawberry, who led the league with 39 homers, has the right to play wherever he wants, but the timing of his statement couldn't have been worse.

The Mets pulled out a dramatic victory in Game 1 with three runs in the ninth inning off Hershiser and Jay Howell for a 3-2 victory.

In a first-person article for the New York Daily News the next day, pitcher David Cone wrote Hershiser was "lucky" to shut the Mets out for eight innings and Howell looked like a "high school pitcher."

The Dodgers, devastated by the loss in Game 1, were inspired by Cone's prose and chased him with five runs and five hits in two innings in Game 2.

"We blew it ourselves, we beat ourselves," Strawberry said. "Now we have to live with it."

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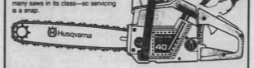

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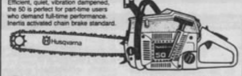

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